

ANONYMOUS CRIME TIP PROGRAMS



TEXT-A-TIP

WEB TIP

PHONE TIP



MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE

Montgomery County Police Department Anonymous Crime Tip Program Public Fact Sheet

In response to demand from the public for secure and anonymous ways to submit crime tips to the authorities, the Montgomery County Police Department has developed a new **completely anonymous** tip service for use by the public.

Text-a-Tip Program:

User types "MCPD" plus their tip on their cell phone or PDA and text it to **274637 (CRIMES)**. The text message is encrypted and an alias is generated, masking the identity of the sender from the police. The police have no way of determining the user's identity. An anonymous 2 way dialogue is possible with investigators.

Web Tip Program:

Users can enter anonymous web tips at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police or www.tipsubmit.com and click on the Web Tip link. Web forms are in English, Spanish and French. Fill in as much information as possible on the web tip page. You can also attach photos to the web tip. An anonymous 2 way dialogue is possible with investigators. Users should check back to see if more information is needed.

Phone Tip Program:

Users can call 240-773-TIPS (8477) or 866-411-TIPS (8477) 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. A call taker will take your crime tip information anonymously. Calls can be taken in English, Spanish and French.

Privacy

No mobile phone information is collected by the Montgomery County Police Department as part of this program. Your text-a-tip is completely anonymous to the Montgomery County Police Department and is only identifiable via a four-digit tip code that will be provided to you. Any information you submit is directed to the MCPD's crime tip program. Your tip will be disseminated to the appropriate MCPD investigative officers.

These new crime tip services are for non-emergency investigative information only and will not generate a radio call or summon the police to your location.

What is Text Messaging and How Do I Know If I Can Send or Receive a Text?

Text messaging is also known as SMS or "short message service." Text messaging is a way to communicate on your mobile by sending or receiving plain text messages. To determine if you can send text messages, it is best to contact your wireless provider or refer to your mobile device's manual.

Types of Crimes to Submit

The MCPD wants information on every type of crime, not just those covered in the media. The text tip line is not traced, and we are not interested in the user's identity. We believe these new anonymous forms of providing tips to the Police offer a way for callers to rid their neighborhoods of crime SAFELY. This is also a great way to provide information for **Homeland Security** concerns.

When to Submit a Tip

You may submit a tip anytime, anywhere, 24/7.

How to Submit a Tip via Text Messaging to MCPD

To text a tip to the Montgomery County Police Department, you must have text messaging enabled on your phone and subscribe to a participating cell phone carrier. To begin texting your anonymous tip, text the word "MCPD" to the number **274637 (CRIMES)** on your phone's keypad.

Find "Messaging" or "SMS" on your phone's main menu.

1. Create a new txt message or send txt or SMS text.
2. When composing your message:
 - Enter the number **274637 (CRIMES)** in the "to" line
 - In the message body, type word MCPD, a space, and then your crime tip information (MCPD is not case-sensitive).
3. Press "Send" to send the message.
4. You will receive a response from Crime Stoppers shortly.
5. Investigators may respond to you anonymously through the system to have a 2 way text dialogue.

Delete your text-a-tip messages...

For your safety, you should always delete all text messages to and from **274637**

(CRIMES) from your in box and your out box.

To Stop the Program

To stop the program at any time, which will prevent MCPD from being able to securely respond back to you, you can opt out via text message. Send a text message with the word "STOP" to **274637 (CRIMES)**. You'll receive a one-time opt-out confirmation text message. If you choose to, you can submit a text tip again at a later time by texting the word MCPD along with your tip to **274637 (CRIMES)**

Help

At any time, from your mobile phone, send a text message with the word "HELP" to CRIMES (274637) for program information. This is for operational information, not to solicit help from the MCPD.

Cost to Send

Although the MCPD service is free and requires no purchase or fee for participation, standard messaging rates and other fees may apply. Check your mobile plan for more details.

Note: The program is available on most, but not all major wireless carriers, therefore we cannot guarantee this program will work for all participants. Although the program is complimentary to participants, standard text messaging rates may apply. Check with your carrier and wireless plan for details.

RESOURCES

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police
www.tipsubmit.com

240-773-TIPS (8477)

Call 911 in an emergency...

If you see a crime in progress or need to report an emergency, please call 911.

Normal Police Calls for service:

If you need routine police response or assistance please call Police Non Emergency
301-279-8000